

Honorable Representatives,

Thank-you for the opportunity to offer this testimony before you today. In increasingly difficult economic times, it behooves us as a State to utilize our resources in the most efficient manner possible without compromising the public safety. The elimination of the pistol purchase permit requirement in the State of Michigan achieves this precise goal.

REDUNDANT AND COSTLY

Probably the most important reason to eliminate this process in Michigan is that it is costly and it is a huge duplication of work that already takes place. The pistol purchase permit process in the State of Michigan has been obsolete since 1998 because of the federal requirements implemented under the Brady Law of 1993. I would like to direct your attention again to Exhibit 3A, ATF Form 4473 (5300.9) Part I Revised May 2007. This form must be completed for the transfer of any firearm in any commercial transaction anywhere in the nation. The purchaser fills out the front of the form with their identifying information and signs and dates the form at the top of the second page. The Federal Firearms Licensed (FFL) Dealer then verifies this information by looking at State or Federal issued identification that bears the person's name, photograph, their address, and their date of birth. The form is not complete until the FFL Dealer either makes a phone call to the FBI NICS (National Instant Check System) Center or is presented with a document that is an exemption from such a check. For instance, in Michigan, a Concealed Pistol Licensee is exempt from such a check because we have already passed extensive and thorough criminal background checks. This information is then required to be kept by the FFL Dealer for a minimum of twenty years by federal law. If the FFL Dealer ever closes the business, the records are sent to the FBI and they keep them on file. These records are always available for the purpose of a legitimate law enforcement investigation. In fact, if I, as an FFL Dealer, receive a phone call from the FBI

NICS Operation Center for trace information on a firearm, I am required to provide a response to that call within 24 hours. The vast majority of FFL Dealers, myself included, keep such meticulous and organized records, that we are able to provide the information being sought before the phone call from the FBI NICS Operation Center is concluded.

With all of this effort and expense being expended by the federal government it makes no sense for us as a State government to duplicate the work and spend money on it yet a second time. This is why Michigan is only one of five states to still require such a process (The other four states are California, Hawaii, Maryland, and Minnesota).

In April of 2010, there were a total of 1.8 million phone calls made to the NICS system. Of course this excludes all sales of handguns in Michigan because currently none of them require the phone call because both the CPL License and the Purchase Permit serve as an exemption to the required phone call. If we were to take this number and use it as a rough estimate, divide it by 50, and then by 2 (long guns vs. handgun sales), we get 18,000 handguns sold per month in the State of Michigan. It takes an average of 15 minutes to process a purchase permit. This is 1,200 hours of law enforcement administrative time spent on this redundant process. Multiply 1,200 by an average wage of \$15 per hour and we spend \$18,000 per month or \$216,000 per year. This is a huge waste of time and money when these resources could be re-directed at more important priorities.

I would urge you to support this legislation and pass it out of this committee with your recommendation to the Full House of Representatives that they vote to pass this bill. You may do so with a clear conscience that you are not decreasing the safety of the citizens of the State of Michigan and that you

are being wise stewards of the financial resources with which the citizens of Michigan have entrusted to you. Thank-you very much for your kind time and attention.

Joel E. Fulton

President, Freedom Firearms (A Federal Firearms Licensed Dealer)

Author, *The Right to Carry: An Awesome Responsibility*